



Retired Admiral Elmo Russell “Bud” Zumwalt Jr. dies

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Retired Admiral Elmo Russell “Bud” Zumwalt Jr., former Chief of Naval Operations and Joint Chiefs of Staff member from 1970 to 1974, died Sunday, Jan. 2, 2000 at Duke University Hospital in Durham, N.C., from complications following chest surgery in October for malignant mesothelioma. He was 79.

At 44, Zumwalt was the youngest ever officer promoted to rear admiral, and at 49, was the youngest four-star admiral to be appointed to the post of Chief of Naval Operations. As CNO, he initiated wide-ranging reforms through his famous “Z-grams” and made Navy careers much more attractive.

Zumwalt was born in San Francisco in 1920 and grew up in Tulare, Calif. He was a

distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in 1942.

He served aboard destroyers in World War II, and after the surrender of Japan, he became the prize captain of a captured Japanese destroyer and sailed it to Shanghai. There he met and married the former Mouza Coutelais-du-Roché of Harbin, Manchuria.

After retirement, Zumwalt entered the corporate world as president of American Medical Buildings, and in subsequent years served as director of a number of corporations.

In 1976, Zumwalt ran as the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in Virginia.

He was the author of two books. “On Watch” (1976) recounts his Navy career and warns Americans about the Soviet naval threat. “My Father, My Son” (1986) co-authored with his late son, Elmo III, is an account of their Vietnam



Retired Admiral Elmo Russell “Bud” Zumwalt Jr., former Chief of Naval Operations and Joint Chiefs of Staff member. U.S. Navy photo.

experiences and the tragic illness and death of his son.

Zumwalt took a special interest in diseases that might flow from service-connected causes. He served as chairman of several

foundations dealing with these issues, including The Marrow Foundation, International Consortium for Research on the Health Effects of Radiation,

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Agent Orange Coordinating Council, Center for the Study of the Vietnam Conflict, National Marrow Donor program (Chairman Emeritus), Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (Chairman, Advisory Board) and Health and Education Volunteers (Chairman, Advisory Board).

In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, for his service to the U.S. in war and peace.

At the time of his death, Zumwalt was president of Admiral Zumwalt Consultants, Inc., a consulting firm in the fields of management, energy, health care, overseas business operations, foreign and defense policy and strategic planning. He was a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents. He also served as President of the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation.

Among his military decorations, he received the Distinguished Service Medal (three awards) and the Legion of Merit (two awards). He received the Bronze Star for valor during the battle of Leyte Gulf.

"Like thousands of other people in and around the Department of the Navy, I admire Bud Zumwalt," said the Honorable Richard Danzig, Secretary of the Navy. "I learn from him, and I am inspired by him. The fact that he died changes none of this — perhaps it intensifies his impact."

"After nearly a third of a century of distinguished service, Admiral Zumwalt was promoted over nearly thirty of his seniors to become Chief of Naval Operations in 1970," continued the SECNAV. "As CNO he led with rare courage, energy and empathy to, above all, lighten the burdens and increase the rewards of naval service. At a time when racial hostility and discrimination particularly afflicted American society, he fought these problems with special ferocity in the Navy he loved so dearly."

"Bud Zumwalt was a

model for us all," the SECNAV added. "What his son, Elmo, called his 'burning torch of love' for all those around him, and especially America's Sailors, is reciprocated today by our love for him. We will miss him, but not forget him or what he stood for."

"I am greatly saddened by the passing of Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, former Chief of Naval Operations," said Adm. Jay L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations. "Bud Zumwalt was a good personal friend, a great mentor, and a stalwart supporter of our Navy. His bold visionary leadership brought great change to our service in the early 70's. His actions had profound impacts on the size, shape, and culture of our Navy which are still evident today, nearly three decades after his watch."

"His most treasured legacy will be his unswerving commitment to improving the lives of our Sailors," continued the CNO. "As CNO, he had the courage and tenacity to effect positive change that revolutionized a Sailor's everyday life. He carried that commitment forward even in retirement. Bud

Zumwalt never stopped caring for or working to improve the Sailor's life. We are a measure richer for his efforts. Garland and I extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Zumwalt and the entire family."

In a message to the Navy, the CNO directed that all ships and stations fly the U.S. flag at half-staff from Jan. 3 until sunset on Jan. 10 in tribute to Adm. Zumwalt.

Zumwalt is survived by his wife, Mouza Coutelais-du-Roche Zumwalt; one son, James; two daughters, Anne Zumwalt Coppola, and Mouzetta Zumwalt-Weathers; six grandchildren; a sister, Saralee Zumwalt Crowe; and a brother, James G. Zumwalt.

A full-honors funeral will be held Monday, Jan. 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel and Cemetery.

NAVNEWS, a weekly publication containing stories of fleetwide interest, is an official product of the Naval Media Center.

The desktop version of NavNews can be accessed on the Navy Home Page: www.navy.mil. E-mail stories submissions to: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil or call NavNews at (703)695-0911; DSN 225-0911.